



STATE OF MICHIGAN

For Immediate Release
February 3, 2006

Contact: Ari B. Adler
517-373-5886

Matt Resch
517-373-5703

Legislative Leaders Say Governor's Vetoes Will Slow Michigan's Economic Recovery

Governor kills legislation designed to help job providers; loses credibility

Lansing - Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema and House Speaker Craig DeRoche said today that by vetoing business-friendly legislation, the governor has proven she is not serious about economic recovery and is unwilling to match her rhetoric to reality.

"The governor had an opportunity to prove that what she says and what she does are the same thing. Instead, she vetoed two critical bills for job providers and in the process vetoed her credibility," said Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "The short-term damage will hurt small businesses in Michigan - the long-term damage of a leader with a credibility gap is devastating to this state's recovery."

The governor today vetoed Senate Bill 957 and House Bill 5447. SB 957 would have cut the tax rate in half for 35,000 small businesses across the state. HB 5447 would have prohibited the state from instituting onerous ergonomics standards that are expected to cost the business community at least \$500 million to implement.

In December, the governor encouraged the passage of and signed a \$600 million tax cut for large manufacturers as part of a job retention strategy. But today, she vetoed a \$24 million tax cut for small businesses that was part of a job creation strategy.

In her State of the State address on Jan. 25, the governor said, "I'll also continue to do everything I can to make our state more friendly to job providers." But today, she vetoed two bills that would have sent a clear message to job providers that Michigan is serious about being friendlier to businesses.

For months now the governor has said she will "go anywhere and do anything to bring jobs to Michigan." But today, she vetoed a bill that would have addressed one of the potential government actions that is having a major chilling affect on small businesses looking to locate and expand in Michigan.

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"One week after the governor stood before the people of Michigan and proclaimed her commitment to turning our economy around, she has vetoed legislation that would have created jobs by making Michigan a less-costly, more-competitive state," said DeRoche, R-Nov. "The governor can travel around the globe all she wants attracting a few jobs here and there, but we'll never achieve the kind of sustained investment, economic growth and job creation we need in Michigan until we make fundamental changes to our business climate. In this case, the governor's veto speaks much louder than her words."

Sikkema agreed, saying, "The biggest question I had after the State of the State address was whether this governor was willing to match her rhetoric with reality. That question has now been clearly answered with a resounding, 'No.'"

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